

# A most excellent Ditty, called *Collins Conceit*.

To the tune of *Wigmore Galliard*.

**C**oncedits of sundry sorts there are,  
but this Conceit of mine,  
Doth wish all men to have a care,  
to live by wisdoms line.  
In my conceit if men would looke,  
where factes virtues dwell.  
And live according to Gods Booke,  
then all things should be well.

If wisdoms were once made out  
they would direct vs right, (guide,  
where now we daily slip aside,  
for want of wisdoms light.  
If we had faith, we need not feare  
the Devil nor powers of Hell:  
If goodly faith our Anchor were,  
then all things should be well.

If we could learne to love the Roke,  
with an unfained love,  
And willingly obey his Word,  
as duty both vs move:  
If we would leave our wickednesse,  
wherein we are excell,  
And give our minde to goodlines,  
then all things should be well.

If people did not goe to Church,  
only for fashion sake:  
If one would not another lurch,  
nor yet had rowles sake:  
If all those that came to pure,  
would not be false weights sell.  
But truly deale, we might be sure  
that all things should be well.

If men would not, to purchase gain,  
silly themselves forsweare.  
For take the name of God in vaine,  
but live in dread and feare:  
If all hypocrites were left,  
which daily both us errell:  
If we were not of pale berest,  
then all things should be well.

If confidence were not overstriding,  
for to oppresse the weakie:  
If subtilties were not mainfading,  
if none would promise breake:  
If spitefull men did not delight,  
in maligning wits to dwell:  
If one kept not anothers wife,  
then all things should be well.

If no man would false witness bear  
for love or for loue:  
If no contentious people were  
to quarrell to moue:  
If none would hurt the innocent,  
nor yet to money sell

Another life, there time well spent,  
then all things should be well.

If bloody murthering would cease,  
which doth for vengeance cry:  
If every man would sake for peace,  
and live contently:  
If drunkennesse and gluttony,  
that doth so much excell:  
If none would practise cruelty,  
then all things should be well.

If Parents would instruction be,  
and youth in time correct:  
Would youth good counsell note and see,  
but thereto have respect:  
If servants were obedient  
to those with whom they dwell  
If they were quiet and diligent,  
then all things should be well.

If fornication were not used,  
nor foule adultery:  
In every place were hydes resus'd,  
and parsifality:  
If no man would his neighbor wrong  
which far is neerer him dwell,  
Nor stain their credit with his tongue,  
then all things should be well.

If scolding queenes were punished,  
did witches hang by trees:  
If bads and whores not suffered,  
some had a blessed tree:  
If we did not note to sit  
in this barke shakle Cell:  
If goodly wisdoms counsel wit,  
then all things should be well.

If costly foods would once be left,  
which serape and chaw for gainie,  
The poore and needy forges that want  
would of so much complainie:  
If trust might be safe in his hand,  
if truth might buy and sell,  
If double dealing once were dead,  
then all things should be well.

If cunning Outpurse and Abuse,  
were cleane out of the way,  
Then some false knaves that true men  
should not remaine this day.  
If sweatin were once out of use,  
that none of oathes could sell:  
If yes were left, we might be sure,  
that all things would be well.

If carry-tales, that breed debate,  
were hid from Span and Cise:  
Then surely each man with his mate,

might lead a quiet life:  
If neighbours would like friends agree  
and love among vs dwell:  
If pride might once expelled be,  
then all things should be well.

If landlords would leave racking  
if brute would cease: (rent  
If we had not great mad content,  
this Land might live in peace.  
If Justice would not swerve at all,  
if malice would not swell:  
If high aspiring climbers fall,  
then all things should be well.

If rash and hasty people would  
to patience give place:  
If wrath were left, a number would  
not be so void of grace:  
If baseness were abandoned,  
were come again to Hell:  
If insolence were punished,  
then all things should be well.

If deeds of charity were used,  
if poore men were not proud,  
If Officers were not abusive,  
if vice were not allowed:  
If flatterers would not suite prolong,  
but to their Clients tell  
If false stand, if right or wrong,  
then all things should be well.

If flattering pick-thanks were expelled  
out of the Common-wealth:  
If men a moderate yet hold,  
they might live long in health:  
If belch'd customnesse and pride  
did not amongst vs dwell:  
If such men were not mercurie  
then all things should be well.

If poore mens states were pittied,  
which doe in prison live:  
If such others were much comforted,  
in their necessity:  
If such men did not live bereft,  
if wars did not excell:  
If such men practise no delight,  
then all things should be well.

If these false traitors were found out,  
which would this Realme betwixt  
Then should all England round about,  
stand at a better day.  
That wicked wits may decay,  
and better be the bell,  
So God let us merrily pray,  
and so we shall be well.  
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